DESERET NEWS
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
We Stand For The Constitution Of The United States
As Having Been Divinely Inspired
22 A EDITORIAL PAGE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1970

To Meet Health Crisis, Put First Things First

By just about any reasonable standard, America faces a health care problem of crisis proportions.

Last year the medical bill for each American came to $294 — double what it was a decade ago and still rising.

By 1973, hospital room costs are expected to rise by 44 percent to $100 a day. In some major cities they already have reached that amount.

Because of inflation, less than half of new expenditures for health services over the past five years have resulted in new services.

Although Americans spent $60.3 billion on health care in fiscal 1969, the United States lags behind many other nations in the quality of its health care. In infant mortality, for example, the U.S ranks only 12 among the major industrial nations. The situation has deteriorated since 1950, when the U.S. ranked sixth. In life expectancy for males, the U.S ranks 18th, and for females 11th.

The nations which rank higher than the U.S. are said to all have national health programs which either provide or finance health services for most of their citizens.

That's why there has been a major upsurge in proposals for a national health insurance system under which the federal government would help pay the medical bills for all Americans. Even the American Medical Association, long a foe of socialized medicine, has its "Medicredit" plan by which Americans would receive tax credits for their purchase of health insurance.

While Congressional Quarterly reports this week that a national health insurance program has no chance of being enacted in 1970, the publication expects "an intensive debate on the issue in the 92nd Congress" that opens next year.

But before Congress expands its Medicare and Medicaid programs for retirees and welfare recipients to provide cradle-to-grave health insurance for all, the lawmakers should consider a few pertinent facts:

—Without fundamental reforms, increasing the government's role in health care would also increase bureaucratic bungling and red tape. Earlier this year a Senate Finance Committee found the Social Security Administration was "incredibly inept" in failing to keep Medicare costs under control. Let's cure the shortcomings in administering these limited programs before we think about expanding them.

—The medical profession can do more on its own to curb rising health care costs by taking such steps as more group practice, which permits improved medical care at lower cost, and retaining aides to perform at low salary rates the relatively simple medical tasks which don't require a long and costly education. The medical profession should be given a chance to put its own house in order before the government tries to do the job.

—By creating greater demand for medical services, the present Medicare and Medicaid programs put too much pressure on limited health care facilities and personnel. This pressure helped drive up medical costs for all of us. Unless more hospitals and doctors are first provided to help meet the demand, national health insurance will buy more confusion by trying to buy services that aren't available.

A nation which has made so many breakthroughs in medical research and technology should be able to deliver health care to all Americans who really need it — but only if the nation gets its priorities straight.

Golda Comes Calling

Mrs. Golda Meir's fence-mending trip to the U.S. starting today appears to be getting off to a shaky start.

The Israeli premier and her cabinet have been bitterly disappointed by several U.S. moves lately. One was the slowness of the U.S. to react to massive Russian infusions of military hardware into Egypt, particularly surface-to-air missiles. Another was the slowness of the U.S. to admit what it knew all along — that Egypt and the Soviets had used the cease-fire immediately to move SAM sites closer to the Suez Canal in violation of the American-sponsored cease-fire's terms.

As a result, Mrs. Meir is expected to put pressure on President Nixon to persuade the Soviets and Arabs that there will be no Middle East peace negotiations until the missiles are removed — and perhaps to rattle a few sabres in the process.

In addition, Israel has been reported preparing its biggest military hardware shopping list of the long U.S.-Israeli alliance. Part of that request is expected to be additional Phantom and A-4 Skyhawk jets. The U.S., although steering away from hard promises, appears to be replacing Israeli plane losses. The last reported deal earlier this month was for an additionl 16 to 18 Phantom jets.

Israel has consistently emphasized air supremacy as her first line of defense against the Arab confederation. A year ago she had about 260 jet planes, compared with Egypt's 300 and another 300 for Syria and Iraq together. But the superiority of Israeli pilots and mechanics has helped to offset the discrepancy in numbers. The recent installation of sophisticated SAM missile sites in Egypt, however, has challenged this supremacy and has threatened a dangerous imbalance in military power.

Any lukewarm action the U.S. might take now would only persuade the Russians that America is prepared to see Israel go down the drain — and with it gobbling up of the entire Middle East by the Soviets.

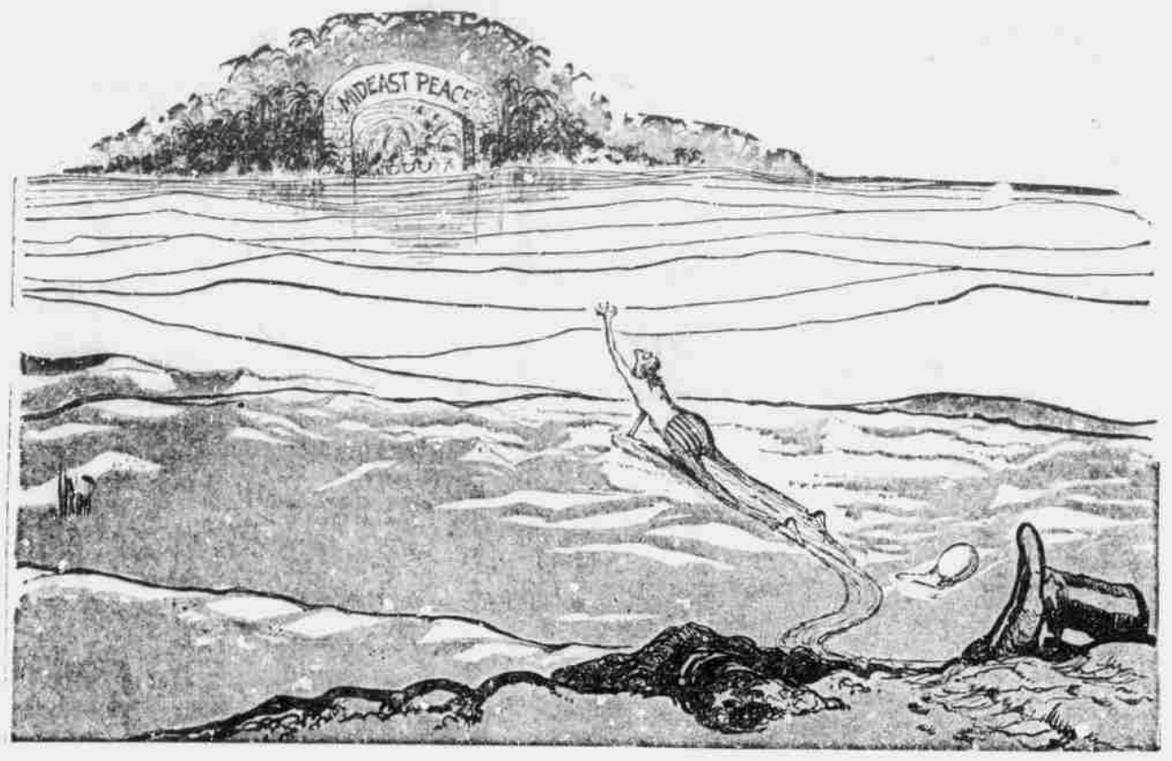
Question For Germans

What's NATO?

That is the question asked recently in a public opinion survey in West Germany, and the answers should make Americans wonder if a shift in U.S. policy is not in order.

Only 7 per cent knew what the initials stood for — the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — and the rest did not. Seventeen per cent thought it was an antacid, a girl's name, or a chemical formula.

The next question is whether the Germans would miss that defense shield if the U.S. brought some of its troops home and saved American taxpayers a bundle.



Reflections On Black-Eyed Peas

JAMES J. KILPATRICK

SCRABBLE, VA. — The black-eyed pea is known to botanists as Vigna sinensis, but it is known to connoisseurs the world over as the Noble Legume, a vegetable unsurpassed in flavor, value and ravishing delight.

Mr. Kilpatrick

Now that, my children, is a topic sentence, as you will recall from your days in Eng. Comp., defining the subject to be discussed and suggesting the argument to be developed. And if it seems to you odd to encounter a discourse on the black-eyed pea in the erudite columns of this distinguished newspaper, be assured that the reasons are twofold.

First, one of my editors has asked me kindly, as a personal favor, just once, to lay off the Constitution and all pending amendments thereto. Second, when a Virginia editor goes on vacation, which is what I am on, sort of, this is what he does. It is all he does. He contemplates the black-eyed pea. No Virginia editor ever has been known to spend a vacation otherwise. It is from this exercise that the high character of Southern journalism has emerged.

I dwell upon the thought for one additional moment. How it may be elsewhere in the Republic I cannot say, but one of the great traditions of the Virginia press has stemmed from the Noble Legume. Prior to the late war, an aspiring young scribe, wishing to set forth his opinions for public consumption, was examined by his elders in Latin, Greek, and the Convention of '88. In the years that followed after Appomattox, he was expected to name the commanders at Shiloh, down to the rank of major; on both sides. Most of this scholarship has gone by the boards in our own permissive time, but one requirement remains. The categorical imperative is that a Virginia editor must eat black-eyed peas not less frequently than three times a week. He must not merely eat them; he must give every appearance of liking them.

Nay, there is more. He must savor them, relish them, roll them about on his tongue. Day and night, he must sing of their perfection. When he travels abroad in the land, to Charleston, Savannah and Dallas, or to other such centers of learning, he is expected to defend the black-eyed pea against the inferior gastronomic claims of crab soup, hominy grits and five-alarm chile.

And why not? It is well established that of all the vegetables of antiquity, none antedates the Noble Legume. It first appears in Genesis 1:29. It was cultivated by Adam. It also was cultivated by Eve. Virgil spoke favorably of the black-eyed pea. Shakespeare could never get his fill of them. We are told that Brahms' majestic Concerto for Six Bassoons, though the manuscript unhappily has been lost, was dedicated to this prince of the vegetable kingdom.

Among the infinite glories of the black-eyed pea is that it cannot be cooked badly. It is superb au naturel. It is sublime when simmered with fatback. In the simple company of cornbread and stewed tomatoes, it surpasses description. It is good the next day. It is good the day after that. The black-eyed pea may be squashed, mashed, pureed, or fried in delicate cakes. Fresh shucked, the peas look up from the bowl, their black eyes filled with longing. "Eat me!" they cry. No other vegetable can make that claim.

Yet it is not the celestial succulence of the Noble Legume that sets it apart, nor yet its ancient lineage, its versatility, or its nutritional content (the black-eyed pea, I should have remarked, contains 26 minerals and 42 vitamins, including eight not yet discovered). There is more. The pea transcends every barrier of race, class, and social division. It is the greatest character builder ever known.

From the humblest shacks along the Yazoo to the glossiest domes of Gotham, the pea provides the tie that binds. In the presence of the Noble Legume, no quarrelsome voice is raised, no animosity survives. Every state of war in time gives way, of course, to peas. In such a rapturous stew, political differences dissolve. It was in just this fashion, at Philadelphia in 1787, over bowls of steaming black-eyed peas, that the Founding Fathers agreed upon the language of Article II. Could anything else possibly have inspired the Constitution?

'Patriotism' Versus 'Nationalism'

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Most people fail to understand the difference between "patriotism" and "nationalism."

Patriotism is wanting what is best for your country. Nationalism is thinking your country is best, no matter what it does.

Patriotism means asking your country to conform to the highest laws of man's nature, to the eternal standards of justice and equality. Nationalism means supporting your country even when it violates these eternal standards.

Patriotism means going underground if you want to — as the anti-Nazis in Germany did — and working for the overthrow of your government when it becomes evil and inhuman and incapable of reform. Nationalism means "going along" with a Hitler or a Stalin or any other tyrant who waves the flag, mouths obscene devotion to the Fatherland, and meanwhile tramples the rights of people.

Patriotism is a form of faith. Nationalsim is a form of superstition, of fanaticism, of idolatry.

Patriotism would like every country to become like ours, in its best aspects. Nationalism despises other countries as incapable of becoming like ours.

Just as we fail to understand the difference between patriotism and nationalism, so many people fail to understand what "Americanism" really consists of.

"Americanism" was something utterly new in the world when it was conceived by our Founding Fathers. It was not just another form of nationalism — indeed, it was a repudiation of all the then existing nationalisms.

It was conceived as a form of government unrestricted to one geographical place or one kind of people. It was open to all men everywhere — no matter where they were born or came from. In this respect, it was utterly unique. Its patriotism was potentially worldwide.

The word "Americanism" must not be narrowed or flattened or coarsened to apply only to one flag, one people, one government. In its highest, original sense, it asks that all men become patriots to an idea, not to a particular country or government. And this idea is self-government by all men, who are regarded as equals in the law.

This is why American patriotism — properly understood — is the best patriotism in the world, because it is for all the world and not just for us. To confuse it with nationalism, to use it for ugly purposes, is to betray the dream of those who made it come true.

Saying Goodby To A High Chair

ERMA BOMBECK

As I drove into Mother's driveway I saw it atop a heap of trash. The high chair.

Well, it was about time. I mean, how long can you hang onto a baby chair and wait for a 42-year-old daughter to make medical history. Besides, all we ever did with it now was get our hips stuck!

Mrs. Bombeck

(I remember when she got it. The baby was just old enough to sit alone. To get her at table height took a four-man precision drill team. Mother brought in the kitchen chair, Granddad got three World Book Encyclopedias and five Life magazines, my husband got the pillow from the spare bed and I contributed a piece of plastic 4 by 6 feet. Then one day just before Christmas, Grandma flashed the new high chair. "We'll keep it here at Grandma's" she said, flashing her Jean Dixon smile. "You never know when it will come in handy.")

It makes good sense to get rid of it. Parked right in the middle of Mothers Mediterranean, it looks as out of place as a dentist's chair. Sentiment never won you a center spread in Better Homes & Gardens.

(She was right. It was one refill after another. No sooner did one outgrow the chair than there was another. Before King Kong — that's what we called the first boy — there used to be a restraining belt and a feeding tray . . . and paint. Oh well.)

It's the thing to do. It will certainly give Grandma a lot more room in her kitchen now that the chair is gone. Besides, you shouldn't hang onto things that someone else can use. Right?

(If that chair could only talk. How many birthday smiles have been illuminated by candles from that seat. Including the lousy cake I broiled. And Mother said why didn't you make three layers and I cried and said I did. And by that time the kid had fed half of it to the dog.)

It's just a chair. A lousy piece of furniture that existed before lipstick, car keys, deep voices, big feet, dates and a plaintive, "Gosh, Mom, there's nothing to do at Grandma's. Can we leave after dinner?"

It was a symbol of an era of diaper bags and potty seats and strained liver and blankets that shed all over Grandma's sofa. It was a Sunday at Grandma's where youth held forth and no one thought it would ever end.

I ran my fingers along the rungs stripped of paint by little feet. How do you say goodbye to an era?

With a lump in your throat and tears in your eyes. How else?

the small society — by Brickman

NOW THAT YOUR SON HAS STARTED COLLEGE, WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR? A LAWYER, DOCTOR, ENGINEER...
A SOPHOMORE—
9-17
BRICKMAN
Washington Star Syndicate, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Save Steam Train

I am writing about an article on Page B-1 of a recent (Sept. 9) Deseret News, relative to now-unused D&RGW railroad trackage up Provo Canyon and into Heber City.

As one interested in Utah history and trains, I would very much like to see a portion of that line purchased or leased by an organization such as the Wasatch Railway Museum and Foundation. The museum has gone to great efforts to acquire a steam locomotive and cars in order to operate excursion trains for the benefit of the public, especially those thousands of children now growing up who never knew the steam locomotive.

The operations of these little steam railroads generally look for three conditions: 1. Moderate to large population center; 2. Existing trackage; 3. Interesting scenery. The proposed setup by the museum has all three of these conditions available. In fact, the scenery in Provo Canyon and even in Wasatch County alone is better than most of the lines with which I am acquainted.

I would certainly like to see the lower stretch of Provo Canyon from the power plant to around Bridal Veil Falls under consideration for such a railroad. If that is absolutely impossible because of proposed or pending highway construction, then the line from Heber City to around Charleston and back would be the next most logical space. I would imagine the highway could be constructed completely clear of existing trackage in Wasatch Valley so that both railroad and highway would be simultaneously operable.

Again, let me emphasize the strong desire to have an operating steam railroad in our area. My family would patronize it several times a summer and I know many other families that would ride it at least annually.

—STEPHEN L. CARR, M.D.
4835 Highland Dr.

Driver's Responsibility

On the evening of Sept. 3, I went east from Midvale to State St. The light was red, and as it turned green and I turned north, I found myself following a Ford Mustang in the inside lane. In the outside lane, running beside the Mustang, was a Pontiac Firebird.

All at once I could hear rubber squealing on the road and these two cars were racing north. The light at 7500 South changed as they approached, so they both slammed on their brakes. The Pontiac stopped, but the Mustang slid at an angle out into the intersection, seriously endangering the cross traffic. Then, when the light changed again they raced to 7200 South, where the light again turned red, forcing them to stop. I don't know how fast they drove, but I was going near the speed limit, and I imagine they reached speeds nearly twice as fast as I was going.

I have always imagined that the driving license I carry gives me not only the right to drive, but the responsibility of doing it within the traffic laws as they are set up, and if I am not willing to voluntarily obey the traffic laws, I should really not be driving. I think this applies to others as well as to me.

—F. OLSON

Anti-Moss Conspiracy?

For many weeks now readers of Letters to the Editor have been witnessing a political attack on Senator Moss in your column by a collaborating political group and an experienced political writer. The last such attack I read was titled "Clarity, Please, Senator," and was carried in the Sept. 11 paper. These letters against the senator have been printed more frequently the past few weeks.

I would like to bring to your attention that such letters are not in fact written by individuals throughout the state, but by one individual. His letters are mailed in by others in his group working for the defeat of Senator Moss at the polls this November.

Facets of a particular writing style have faithfully permeated each of these messages. Note the same sentence structure and descriptive word usage, with repeated introductory and closing phrases. A vehement theme of anti-patriotism and implied dereliction on the part of Senator Moss is consistently expostulated. There is evident a certain astute, concise writing skill not commonly possessed by so many concerned, individual citizens as have written in on the senator these past several weeks.

I think it is regretiable that the Deseret News should be acting as an agent for this organized group, either knowingly or unknowingly. I also contend that this letter writing group is a political organization and should sign its own name and not continue to pose as individual, unaffiliated concerned citizens, for whom this column was most intended.

—M. S. WINWARD
2260 E. 3020 South

Indians Rap Solon

On behalf of many complaining Ute Indians in the state of Utah, the League of Pan American Indians and their friends hereby urge the people of Utah to refuse to support Senator Frank E. Moss, for the following reasons, at the coming November election.

First is the refusal on the part of Senator Moss to defend the property rights of the full-blood Ute Indians in the state of Utah, under the Partition Act of 1954.

We find in checking the report of Miss Lola Anderson, county recorder for Uintah County, issued on March 15, 1960, that approximately 3,250 acres of full-blood Ute tribal lands were conveyed to mixed-blood Ute Indians in violation of Section 9, Public Law 671 (68 Stat. 868). The said lands were appraised at $100 per acre.

In addition, the full-blood Ute tribe lost their water rights to 3,250 acres in two townships, which cost the full-blood Ute Indian tribe $1,000 per lineal mile for construction of irrigation canals.

Second, there was set aside for 1,177 full-blood Ute Indians, under the 1955 Improvement Act $5,223,400 to support Ute Indian families over a 10-year period, 1955 to 1965. On June 30, 1958, there was no money on hand to continue the per capita payments, in support of full-blood Ute Indian families. Said funds had been expended by Ute Indian agent Darrell Fleming on projects outside of the 10-year agreement. The said confiscated funds have never been returned to the credit of the full-blood Ute Indians in the state of Utah.

—F. TOM-PEE-SAW
Secy., League of Pan American Indians
Parsons, Kansas